



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY CONDUCTS INVESTIGATION INTO A FATAL COLLISION NEAR WILLIAMS

The Williams Police Department has requested the Arizona Department of Public Safety to conduct an investigation into a fatal collision that took the lives of five people.

On Sept. 10, 2007, at 10:19 p.m., officers from the Williams Police Department responded to a report of a single-vehicle accident at milepost 183.3 on Perkinsville Road in Williams.

Responding officers found a Honda Prelude, carrying a driver and five passengers, that had struck a tree after leaving the roadway while traveling northbound.

The driver of the vehicle, 20-year-old Matthew Dent, a Williams resident, was pronounced dead at the scene. Also pronounced dead at the scene were passengers Elena Rivera, 15, Prescott McDaniel, 16, both of Williams, and Matthew Small 18, of Claremont, Calif. Jesse Buchmoyer, 21, also of Williams, was pronounced dead en route to Clark Memorial Field Airport, in Williams, from injuries sustained in the accident.

Jennifer Miller, 16, of Williams, was transported to the Flagstaff Medical Center where she was listed in stable condition with only minor injuries.

The initial investigation shows that the vehicle's speed and the occupants' lack of safety belt usage were contributing factors in the collision and resultant deaths. Investigators are still examining the case to see if alcohol was a contributing factor.

Further investigation with the Coconino County Medical Examiner's Office is pending.

"On behalf of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, I wish to express our condolences to the victims families. Williams is close knit community and we know this tragedy affects a very large number of people. DPS will conduct this investigation in a professional manner in hopes that all questions concerning this collision will be answered." said Roger Vanderpool Director Arizona Department of Public Safety.